

# *Inside Your Third*

*The Newsletter for the Third Taxing District*

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## **Your Commission**

David L. Brown  
*Chairman*  
Stephen M. Feinstein  
*Commissioner*  
Paul S. Coggin  
*Commissioner*  
John L. Mola  
*Treasurer*

## **Upcoming Events:**

- November 18 Regular Commission Meeting, 7:00 PM, Library, Eunice Van Zilen Room
- December 2 Menorah Lighting, East Norwalk Interfaith Council, Constitution Park, 6:00 PM
- December 8 District Christmas Tree Lighting, Ludlow Park, 6:00 PM
- December 9 Regular Commission Meeting, 7:00 PM, Library, Eunice Van Zilen Room

**The holidays are almost here! A few of the annual events are listed above, please attend if you can. At the Christmas Tree lighting on December 8th, the Commission and the Electrical Department will be taking a special collection of canned goods for the St. Vincent De Paul's Society.**

## **Two Defibrillators Purchased for Department Vehicles**

Your Commission recently voted to authorize the purchase of two state-of-the art defibrillators. These life-saving devices will be kept on two of the Electrical Department's utility vehicles.

According to the Red Cross an estimated 350,000 people who aren't in hospitals go into cardiac arrest each year. This is a result of everything from heart attacks to drownings to dehydration – and nearly ninety-five percent die. The good news is that devices called automated external defibrillators (AED) can save many of these lives – if one can get the heart back going within a few precious minutes.

How do AEDs work? A heart attack occurs when the arteries that supply blood to the heart become blocked, the flow of blood which carries oxygen to the heart is slowed or stopped, and the muscle fibers contract chaotically rather than in synch with each other as they normally do. Normally, each of us has an electrical current that runs through our heart, and it is a nice, regular pattern, and that regular pattern produces a contraction of the heart and gives us a pulse. In sudden cardiac arrest, the cause is often that the electrical current has become disorganized.

Manual defibrillators work by giving the heart a controlled electric shock, forcing all the heart muscles to contract at once, and, hopefully jolting it back into a regular rhythm.

Historically, only trained medical professionals were able to interpret the heart rhythms on manual defibrillator devices. However, today's new AEDs use embedded computer chips to analyze the rhythms instantly and accurately, making it possible for non-medical professionals to administer the same vital service without risking an accidental shock.

According to a show on PBS, eight out of 10 major U.S. airlines have put defibrillators on-board most flights, and federal regulators have proposed that all passenger carriers have them by 2003. They are also being put in public places such as shopping malls and recreational and sport facilities.



## Etcetera

**Christmas Lights:** Now that the holidays are upon us once again, please observe basic safety guidelines regarding holiday lighting. Don't overload outlets, only use outdoor-quality lights and extension cords when wiring outdoors, and be mindful of the condition of your wiring and connectors when stringing up lights indoors or out. Look for cracked insulation and loose fittings. Keep ladders and poles away from the main service lines that run from the street to your home. These are just a few safety hints. Please, respect electricity. If you have any questions please call the Electrical Department.

**Downed Wires:** Winter storms can bring down electrical wires. If you experience an outage or observe any wires that are down or sagging dangerously low, please call the Electrical Department right away. Often times it's difficult to distinguish between low-voltage telephone wires and electrical power wires. There's no need to take a chance. We're here to serve you, and we're on call 24 hours a day.

**Street Lighting:** With the long nights you may have observed street lamps that need to be replaced. If you see street lights that are flickering or that have burnt out bulbs, please report it to us.

## East Norwalk Improvement Association

Involvement in the East Norwalk Improvement Association is a wonderful way to get involved your community. Regular membership is open to all residents and ratepayers of the Third Taxing District. In addition, the Association's management committee (also known as its Board of Directors) has a number of open positions. Please do get involved. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Nancy Cuttner at 853-3628 or via email at [nancy@cuttner.com](mailto:nancy@cuttner.com).

## Defibrillators (continued)

Depending on the model and which specific accessories are purchased (e.g., carrying case, extra batteries, etc.), the AEDs normally cost between \$2,500 and \$4,000 each. Through a special arrangement with the American Public Power Association, the District's Electrical Department was able to purchase these at a 25 percent discount.



AED from SaraMed Corporation